IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (currently amended) In a method [[of]] for use in conjunction with a fire extinguishing spraying apparatus, said apparatus comprising a source of [[a]] an extinguishing medium, [[a]] pump means, and means for passing at least a proportion of the medium to at least one nozzle [[(4)]], the improvements comprising:

re-circulating at least some of the extinguishing medium which is not passed to the nozzle back to a suction side of the pump means [[(3)]]; and

passing at least some of the re-circulated extinguishing medium ~~re-circulated~~ into a discharge pipe [[(15)]] and [[not]] any remaining re-circulated extinguishing medium to the pump means (3).

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flow into the discharge pipe [[(15)]] is restricted.

3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the medium being re-circulated is passed into the discharge pipe [[(15)]] if the temperature of the medium reaches a set value.

4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the passage into the discharge pipe [[(15)]] is opened and/or closed by means of a valve element [[(7)]] controlled on the basis of the temperature of the medium.

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flow rate of the medium being re-circulated is reduced when the flow rate of the extinguishing medium supplied to the nozzles [[(4)]] is increased.

6. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flow rate of the medium being re-circulated is increased when the flow rate of the extinguishing medium supplied to the nozzles [[(4)]] is reduced.

7. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the medium is a water-based liquid.

8. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the medium is re-circulated at a pressure of 1-300 bar.

9. (currently amended) In a fire extinguishing spraying apparatus comprising a source of [[a]] an extinguishing medium, [[a]] pump means, and means for conducting at least some of the extinguishing medium to at least one nozzle [[(4)]], the improvements comprising:

means for re-circulating at least some of the extinguishing medium from a pressure side of the pump means [[(3)]] to a suction side of the pump means; [[,]] and

means for passing at least some of the extinguishing medium being re-circulated into a discharge pipe [[(15)]] and any remaining extinguishing medium being re-circulated into the pump means.

10. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pump means [[(3)]] is at least one of a constant-volume pump or a piston pump.

11. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means for recirculating comprises a passage ~~(13,14)~~ from the pressure side of the pump means [[(3)]] to its suction side, said passage being provided with a pressure valve [[(6)]].

12. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the apparatus comprises a valve element [[(7)]] for opening passage into the discharge pipe [[(15)]].

13. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the apparatus comprises means [[(8)]] for opening and/or closing the valve element [[(7)]] on the basis of the temperature of the medium.

14. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pump means [[(3)]] is a 1-300 bar pressure pump.

15. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discharge pipe [[(15)]] is provided with a throttle element [[(9)]].

16. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the passage [[(14)]] is provided with a check valve [[(16)]] to prevent the admission of the medium being pumped from the suction side of the pump directly into the discharge pipe [[(15)]].